

HISTORIC
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HAPPENINGS



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FEBRUARY HCC MEETING

**The next HCC meeting is on
February 25th, 2019.**

Plan to join us at 7:00 pm at the Roosevelt Park Recreation Center on West 36th Street. The agenda will include committee updates and discussions of the most important issues of the day for business owners and residents of Hampden.

7:00-7:05 pm: Welcome
7:05-7:30 pm: Committee updates
7:30-8:00 pm: New business

Historic Hampden Happenings is distributed to residents, organizations and businesses throughout Greater Hampden.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Embracing Our School; Time To Pay HCC Dues

By Matt Stegman / HCC President / hccpresident@gmail.com

Embracing Our Community School:

For well over a year in advance of the renovated Robert Poole school building reopening, the HCC has partnered with Baltimore City, City Schools, BPD, and more to build a new, positive relationship between the ACCE and Independence Schools (particular credit goes to Jenn Grimes and Eli Lopatin for their leadership in these efforts). We've held dozens of meetings, the principal at ACCE has been a constant presence at community events, and students and staff from the school have joined the community for cleanups and other events.

Recently, tensions between students and some members of the community have bubbled over in a very ugly way, putting our community in a negative light. It is true that there are some students who have been a community nuisance or worse. The school administrations have been partners with the community in holding students accountable when their behavior has crossed the line. It is also true that some of our neighbors have harassed the students, made racist remarks in person and online, and have made many of the students feel unwelcome in the neighborhood.

One refrain I've heard from many of these neighbors is "why isn't Robert Poole a community school?" Here's the thing: ACCE and Independence – the two schools that occupy the Robert Poole building – ARE our community schools. Tens of millions of dollars have been invested in the building and to support the academic programs at these schools. It's a true community asset. In Baltimore City, all high schools are choice schools, meaning students can decide where to attend based on interests, talents, academic program, and location. Many neighborhood students do attend these schools, and I suspect more will in the coming years. Those students who live outside of Hampden have chosen to be a part of our community, and it's our job to embrace them.

The HCC, Hampden merchants, school leadership, and other stakeholders have started the process of developing long-term strategies to bring the school and community closer together. If you want to be a part of that effort, please contact me at hccpresident@gmail.com.

It's Time to Pay Your Dues!

It's been many years since HCC has changed our membership dues. We are dedicated to serving the Hampden community and want to ensure that membership is accessible to everyone in the community, regardless of income. At the same time, expenses like insurance, event permits, and printing the Hampden Happenings newsletter increase every year.

After much deliberation, the HCC Board of Directors have determined that an increase in membership dues is necessary for us to remain sustainable. Beginning April 1st, the rate for a single membership will increase to \$20 and a family membership will run \$30. We will also be bringing back our Student and Senior rate, which will remain \$10.

The good news is, until April 1st you can still pay your 2019 dues at the 2018 rates. Please consider renewing your membership today, either by mailing in the form on the back of this newsletter or online at www.hampdenhappenings.org.

Matt Stegman
HCC President

Tidier Streets Except for the Butts

By Daniel Ewald

Our last Crime and Grime walk of 2018 was delayed a week due to rain, but the push back allowed for more people to come out on a mild winter day. Our group started with six volunteers at Royal Farms, eventually ending with close to over a dozen neighbors coming out to pick up refuse when we ended at Rocket to Venus. Our crew filled over fifteen garbage bags from the roads, sidewalks, tree pits and green spaces along the way. Officer Josh Laycock of the Baltimore Police also came out to lend a hand.

Among the typical trash, a lot of volunteers noticed a lot of cigarette butts. HCC President Matt Stegman even joked that this was his punishment for casually discarding so many years ago. While the butts could be found at any point along our cleaning route,

large concentrations were present near staff doors of restaurants. Though it may seem innocuous, these butts are among the most common forms of trash, casually discarded and never thought of again. Aside from the plastic on the filters, the butts still contain many of the over 7,000 toxic chemicals found in tobacco products. This toxic waste ends up on our streets, in our drains and in our water. Research has shown that harmful chemicals leached from discarded butts, which include nicotine, arsenic and heavy metals, can be acutely toxic to aquatic organisms. At the February Clean and Green meeting (7pm at Café Hon on Feb 4), we will brainstorm on potential solutions to curb this issue.



Get in Touch With the HCC

President's Email hccpresident@gmail.com	Education Committee hcceducationcommittee@gmail.com
Crime and Safety Committee hampdencrimeandsafety@gmail.com	Clean and Green Committee sustainablehampden@gmail.com
Zoning and Land Use Committee hcczoning@gmail.com	Treasurer hccptreasurer01@gmail.com
Fundraising Committee hampdenccfunds@gmail.com	Submissions & Advertising hampdennewsletter@gmail.com

This is the HCC website!

www.hampdenhappenings.org

Here you will find the HCC membership forms and a Newsletter advertising rate/request form.

Contact
Hampdennewsletter@gmail.com
for help.



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Hampden Family Center: News and Events

By Ashley Wilkes / 1104 West 36th Street / Baltimore, MD 21211 / 410-467-8710 / www.hampdenfamilycenter.org

The New Year is off to a busy start!

We're thrilled to announce our spring event: The Fantastical Hats of Hampden! On Saturday, March 30th our community will come together to celebrate the Center's 23 years of work in Hampden and to support programming for the coming year.

We're moving the event this year to The Garage @ R. House (301 W. 29th Street). As always, some of Baltimore's best cuisine will be served along with a bar generously stocked by The Wine Source.

Get your best hat ready (or create one for the occasion!) because there will also be \$300 in prize money for the most innovative and meaningful hats. You will not want to miss this celebration—so mark your calendars now. Tickets will be released in February at www.hampdenfamilycenter.org.

In the After-School Enrichment Program, students are focused this semester on leadership. With guidance from staff members, students will have an opportunity to both create and run clubs on topics and activities they are passionate about (Builders Club and Gymnastics Club are up first!). We look forward to guiding students through learning important leadership skills such as planning, organizing teams and completing activities.

Since we are fortunate enough to serve community members of all ages, we are connecting the Senior Lunch attendees and After-School Enrichment students. In January, the students created "Get to Know You" pages and art projects for the seniors. These two programs will continue to exchange letters and crafts through the remainder of the school year, so keep an eye out for some new artwork in our front windows!

Adult Literacy/GED

Classes are hosted at the Center on Tuesday and Thursday evenings through Strong City Baltimore. The winter session has started so please check back for the next round of registration in the fall. If you have questions about the enrollment process or class structure, please contact Ms. Davis at Strong City (410-261-3517).

Schedule: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30pm – 8:30pm through June 6th

Study Buddy

This program offers one-on-one tutoring for students in grades K-12 during the academic year. Each student is matched with a volunteer who assists them with the subjects that they find challenging in school. The Study Buddy program is free.

Schedule: Thursdays 6pm – 7pm

Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

If you have children five years and younger and/or if you are pregnant or six months postpartum, you can apply for WIC, which is hosted at the Center every second Thursday of the month. WIC is by appointment only. Call 410-614-4848 for more information.

Date: Thursday, February 14th

Schedule: Second Thursdays, 9am – 5pm

Senior Luncheon

Join us to share a hot meal with friends and play a few rounds of Bingo! Senior Luncheons are free, but advance registration is required as seating is limited. Reservations open the first weekday of each month. Call 410-467-8710.

Date: Friday, February 15th

Schedule: Third Fridays, 11am – 1pm

Seedco Earn Benefits

Need assistance in applying for benefits such as food stamps, utility support, a government issued cell phone or tax credits? Call 410-467-8710 to make an appointment with Ashley.

Schedule: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

Fitness for 50+

Get into shape with an exercise class for those 50 and older! Led by a trained professional from MedStar Union Memorial Hospital, this one-hour, low-impact aerobics and strength training class is held every Tuesday.

Schedule: Tuesdays at 10am

Life Balance Weight Management

This one-year program is based on the National Diabetes Prevention Program, designed for individuals who are at risk to develop type 2 diabetes and those who have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes. With the help of a lifestyle coach, participants are supported in this journey toward making positive changes related to nutrition, exercise, problem-solving, and coping skills. The next session runs January 29th – December 3rd, 2019. Please call 410-274-0446 with questions.

Schedule: Tuesdays 11am – 12pm

NEW PROGRAMS

Individual and Family Counseling

Are you looking for counseling, but not sure where to start? The Family Center is pleased to announce its partnership with Family & Children's Services of Central Maryland (4623 Falls Road). A counselor will be on site every Thursday to meet with clients on a weekly basis. Please call the Center at 410-467-8710 for more information and to schedule an appointment to complete a referral form.

Save the Date: The Fantastical Hats of Hampden! Saturday, March 30th at 7pm

What's New at St. Mary's Outreach Center

By Tasha Cornish / 3900 Roland Avenue / Baltimore, MD 21211 / 410-366-3106 / www.smocbaltimore.org

We hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season, and that you are as hopeful about 2019 as we are. As we travel through winter, we are grateful for your support of our aging neighbors. With your donations of food and supplies for our pantry of consumable medical goods (think incontinence briefs and hygiene products), you are supporting our older adult community members with basic needs that they may otherwise go without, in lieu of paying rent or keeping their heat on. We are thrilled that, because of you, we can keep a small supply at our office and provide these goods through the Food Pantry at Hampden U.M.C. on Falls Road. Thank you, and stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved throughout the year.

Spread the Word: Senior Citizen Water Discount

When the Board of Estimates approved DPW water rate adjustments in January, they also approved changes to the water affordability programs. The positive news is that the 43% discount program on water and sewer consumption charges will be extended to people younger than 65 years old. The disappointing news is that the income limit will be lowered and some people who qualify for the Senior Citizen Discount now will no longer qualify. DPW has announced that those enrolled in the program before July 1 will be grandfathered in, so we need everyone's help in spreading the word to our neighbors. If you would like to sign-up or learn more, please call us at 410-366-3106.

Upcoming at SMOC

Sign up for My Groceries to Go: Wednesday, February 13, 10 AM – 12 PM

If you are age 60 or greater, you may be eligible to receive a monthly 40-lb box of nutritious pantry foods through My Groceries to Go, a federal program run by the Maryland Food Bank. The next sign-up is February 13, 2018. Call 410-366-3106 for more details.

Calling all Crocheters & Knitters: Mondays, 1 PM – 3 PM

All levels are welcome. Some yarn is available, and you are always welcome to bring projects you are already working on. No need to sign up ahead of time—come in to share your knowledge, share your skill, and share your company!



Photo by Eli Pousson

FREE Clothing Giveaway and...

**Second Saturday of the Month
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Woodberry Church of the Brethren
W. 36th and Poole Streets
(Please use basement door entrance.)**

Furloughed U.S. Employees and Contractors Eligible for Water Bill Late Fee Waiver, Payment Plans

Baltimore Mayor Catherine E. Pugh has approved the waiver of late fees on water bills for furloughed federal employees and contractors who are customers of the Baltimore City water system. Impacted federal workers and federal contractors will be eligible for water bill payment plans, allowing them to pay off their bills over time once the government shutdown ends and employees again receive paychecks. The waiver extends to furloughed federal workers and contractors in Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Eligible DPW water customers should send a copy of their work ID and/or a copy of their furlough letter. For quicker service, a picture of the ID or letter can be emailed to DPW's Customer Support and Services Division, at DPW.Billing@baltimorecity.gov. Please also include the name, address, and account number, and indicate if you would like to set up a payment plan as well as a late fee waiver.

Any customer who falls behind in their bills may request a repayment plan to help them become current. Contact Customer Support at the email address above or call 410-396-5398 to discuss your account. Customers with a household income within 175 percent of federal poverty level may qualify for a one-time credit of \$236 toward a payment plan.

First Ever HCC Ugly Christmas Attire Party

By Kathy Krampien / Photo by Ultimate Ugly Christmas of Flickr.com

On December 20, the Hampden Community Council held their annual Christmas Party at the Five and Dime Ale House. The theme was the HCC's "First Ever Ugly Christmas Attire" party. Local merchants donated tons of great prizes and the Modest Florist provided several beautiful poinsettias to help with the festive holiday decorations. The Five and Dime provided delicious wings and pizza and other snacks for the guest and contestants.

Several people went out of their way getting in the holiday spirit by dressing as ugly as possible. Everything from a Hampden Hon's bouffant hairdo with gleaned deer antlers to the ugliest "Grinch" green Christmas suit imaginably. Stephanie Murdock, Mary Pat Clark's right hand gal took first prize with the antlers sprouting out of her beehive. And one

lucky contestant, who slipped out before we got her name, took home an amazing prize package with offerings from such Hampden favorites as Wicked Sisters, Dangerously Delicious Pies, Atomic Books, Sweetside Café, the Charmery and much more. Lucky gal! We closed out the evening with some festive bagpipe music provided by HCC member and Hampden native Jon Kmetz.

Thanks again to all of the party guests, local merchants and a special shout out to Corey and the Five and Dime Ale House for providing us with a great space and food. We are looking forward to the 2019 Holiday Party so we can prove once again the Christmas isn't just for sweaters anymore.



News from the Hampden Library

By Devon Ellis / 3641 Falls Road / Baltimore, MD 21211 / 410-396-6043 / hmp@prattlibrary.org / www.prattlibrary.org

Lunar New Year is here...the Year of the Pig, on February 5th! Best wishes for a wonderful New Year! Come on in to the Hampden Library and see our book display on PIGS!

Baby and Toddler Storytime

Wednesday mornings at 10:30 - 11:10 am, birth to 36 months, with their caregivers
Bring Babies and Toddlers to the library to enjoy our lap program, with music, rhythm, songs, fingerplays, nursery rhymes, a story, and movement.

Preschool Storytime

Thursday evenings at 6:30 - 7:00 pm, for ages 3-5, with their caregivers
Preschoolers can enjoy stories and early literacy activities, such as songs, fingerplays, a craft, games, and poetry.

Built By Imagination

Wednesdays at 3:30 - 4:30 pm, for ages 3-12
Build with Lego Classics, Lego Duplos, and Bristle Blocks.

Adult Book Conversation Group

Thursday, March 21, 2019. Note: new time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm, and new location: the "Wise + Well Center" of Keswick Multi-care Facility, 700 West 40th Street, Baltimore, MD, 21211.

For our March book conversation, we will be reading: "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man," by James Weldon Johnson, a novel, c(1912/1927), by James Weldon Johnson. Despite its title, this is the fictional account of a young biracial man, referred to only as the "Ex-Colored Man," living in post-Reconstruction era America in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He lives through a variety of experiences, including witnessing a lynching, that convince him to "pass" as white to secure his safety and advancement, but he feels as if he has given up his dream—that of contributing to the black race through his passion of composing ragtime music [Wikipedia].

If you would like to reserve a copy of the book, stop by or call the Hampden Library to place your reserve. All are welcome to participate in the book conversation group, even if you haven't read the book!

Hampden Branch

Enoch Pratt Free Library

Mondays + Thursdays: 10 am - 8 pm

Tuesdays + Wednesdays: 10 am - 5:30 pm

Fridays + Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm

Sundays: closed

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Date: February 27
Member Fee: \$25

Time: 11:30am - 1:30pm
Non-Member Fee: \$65

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hampden community council

BE HEARD JOIN NOW

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF HAMPDEN, please consider joining the Hampden Community Council. The HCC is a voice for everyone in Hampden – homeowners, businesses, teenagers, seniors, newcomers and old-timers. The more members we have the farther your voice can reach. Your membership fee supports our newsletter and improves our community through education, clean & green and zoning committees, to name a few. Help Hampden continue to thrive.

Hampden Community Council SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1976 Baltimore, Maryland

HCC MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

NEW MEMBER RENEWING MEMBER

Name(s) _____

Street Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Business Name (if registering for a business membership) _____

INDIVIDUAL (\$10) FAMILY (\$15) BUSINESS (\$25) \$_____ ADDITIONAL DONATION

In addition to my HCC membership, I would like to serve on/learn about the following committee(s): **(OPTIONAL)**

- _____ Zoning
- _____ Crime & Safety
- _____ Membership
- _____ Education
- _____ Fundraising
- _____ Newsletter Distribution
- _____ Clean & Green

Please make checks payable to Hampden Community Council.
The HCC is a non-profit 501(c)3 Organization. All dues and additional donations are 100% tax deductible.

Please fill out this application and mail it, along with your check, to:
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